THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 21st April 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—SWEARING IN OF A NEW MEMBER.

Sir James Doak was sworn in.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Export of yarn outside this Province.

* 147-A Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether the system of giving special permits for export outside this Province either of yarn or cloth, mill-made and hand-woven, is still continued and if so, on what basis such exports are permitted and licences granted?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"No special permits for the export of yarn or mill-made cloth outside this Province are given by this Government. As regards handloom cloth all exgratia quotas and special permits for export outside this Province have been suspended until further orders."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"May I know whether it is a suspension or stoppage of permits altogether?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"As I have already stated that it is suspension until further orders for the present."

Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras.

* 122 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of manuscript and printed books in the Madras Government Oriental Manuscripts Library;

(b) whether catalogues of manuscripts have been published for each of the languages and if so, what the number of catalogues is according to language;

(c) what the staff engaged in the preparation of the catalogues is and whether it is adequate to complete the work within a reasonable period of time;

(d) whether the Library is being utilized for consultation and if so what the average number of users is;

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(*e*) whether the staff employed is adequate to cope with the inquiries received;

(*f*) whether any charges are levied for supplying transcripts to scholars and institutions and if so what they are and what the income has been during last year;

(*g*) what the number of the staff is with the qualifications and emoluments prescribed for each post;

(*h*) whether Sanskrit qualification is not insisted upon for the Curator's post;

(*i*) whether the Library has been located in a rented building and whether the accommodation provided is adequate;

(*j*) whether there are proposals before the Government to convert the Library into a Research Institute;

(*k*) whether the members of the staff are required to go out on tour to collect rare manuscripts and acquire them for the Library;

(*l*) whether adequate arrangements have been made to preserve the manuscripts in their original form or otherwise and whether rare works are being published and made available to the public as in the case of records in the Madras Record Office; and

(*m*) whether the Government have under consideration the whole question of the future of the Oriental Manuscripts Library with a view not only to promote the purpose for which it has been established but also make it more useful to the general public.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) There are 48,708 manuscripts and 9,251 printed books in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras.

" (*b*) Yes. The number of catalogues published in Sanskrit—55; Tamil—15; Telugu—16; Kannada—5; Malayalam—2; Arabic, Persian and Urdu—4.

" (*c*) There is no special staff solely for the purpose of cataloguing. A staff of one Librarian, two Assistant Librarians and eleven Pandits under the Curator, attend to the work of the preparation of catalogues, in addition to their normal duties. The sanctioning of an additional staff to complete the work of cataloguing in a reasonable time is under consideration.

" (*d*) Yes. It is consulted locally by visitors and by non-residence users through correspondence and loan of manuscripts. For the period from 1st April 1936 to 30th November 1946 the monthly average of users is 258.

" (*e*) Yes.

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" (*f*) Charges are levied for supplying transcripts to scholars and institutions at the following rates :—

Sanskrit, Kannada and Malayalam.	**Rs. 10 for copying 1,000 granthas. (A grantha is equal to 32 syllables.)**
Telugu and Tamil ..	**Rs. 9 for copying 1,000 granthas.**
Urdu and Persian ..	**Rs. 10 for copying 10,000 letters.**
Arabic	**Rs. 10 for copying 45,000 letters.**

" Besides, there are comparing charges at the following rates :— Charges for comparing 1,000 granthas in Sanskrit, Tamil. Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam and 60,000 letters in Urdu and Persian and 45,000 letters in Arabic are Rs. 2–12–0.

" The income received was about Rs. 939.

" (*g*) The number of the staff, with the qualifications and emoluments prescribed is as follows :—

Designation.	Number.	Qualifications.	Scale of pay.
			RS.
Curator	1	First or second class M.A. or B.A. (Hons.) of any British or Indian University in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Arabic or Persian with a working knowledge of Sanskrit.	200—30/2—260—40/2—500—50/2—700.
Librarian ..	1	B.A. (Hons.) or B.Sc. (Hons.) or M.A. or M.Sc. of a University in the Province and must possess a sufficient knowledge of Sanskrit and of at least one of the languages, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. Below 30 years of age. Account Test for Subordinate Officers--Part I.	100—10/2—150.
Assistant Librarian (one temporary).	2	Do.	70—5/2—85—7½/2—100.
Clerk	1	S.S.L.C.	30—3/2—45—2/2—55.
Do. (Temporary)	1	Do.	30 per mensem (fixed).
Typist (Temporary).	1	S.S.L.C. with qualification in typing.	30—3/2—45—2/2—55.
Senior Pandit (one for Tamil).	1	Oriental Title of one of the Universities in the Province.	45—5/2—60.
Pandits (1 temporary), 3 for Sanskrit, 1 for Tamil, 1 for Telugu, 1 for Kannada, and 1 for Arabic, Persian and Urdu. (One of the Sanskrit Pandits efficient in Malayalam for Malayalam).	9	Oriental Title in concerned language of one of the Universities in the Province.	35—4/2—43—2/2—45.

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Designation.	Number.	Qualifications.	Scale of pay.
			RS.
Marathi Pandit (Temporary).	1	Proficiency in Marathi with sufficient knowledge of English and ability to read and write Marathi manuscript recorded in Nagari and Modi script. Preference to Oriental Title holders of graduates.	75 per mensem (fixed).
Attender ..	1	III Form	19 to 30.
Peons	3	.. .. ..	12 to 18.
Dusting coolies for dusting manuscripts and books.	2	.. .. ..	12 paid from contingencies.

" (*h*) Sanskrit qualification is not insisted upon for the Curator's post, but a candidate who knows to read and write Sanskrit is given preference for appointment to the post.

" (*i*) The library is not located in a rented building. At present it is housed in a portion of the University buildings on the western side. The accommodation provided for it is not considered adequate.

" (*j*) No.

" (*k*) On receiving information regarding the availability of rare manuscripts in any particular place, a member of the staff qualified to examine them is deputed with or without the Curator to acquire them for the Library.

" (*l*) Yes.

" (*m*) An Advisory committee has recently been constituted and it will be asked to go into the question of making the library more useful to the general public and submit its recommendations."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" As it is a long answer on which there are likely to be a large number of supplementaries, it will be convenient if the question is taken up when the Hon. the Minister for Education is present. If any other Hon. Minister answers the question, he may merely ask for notice in reply to supplementary questions. Of course, I do not blame him for, the facts are not within his knowledge as he is not in charge of those departments."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I am prepared to answer supplementary questions."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I think the answer need not be read. We can take it as having been read, because it is printed. May I know whether the present Curator of the Oriental Manuscripts Library is competent to handle Sanskrit manuscripts? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I think so."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I knew that would be the answer. My point is, is he really qualified in Sanskrit to handle Sanskrit manuscripts? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir. He has a working knowledge of Sanskrit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is a working knowledge of Sanskrit sufficient to deal with the ancient manuscripts in the Library? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" He has been handling the Sanskrit manuscripts for a long time and has been continuing to do so."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know how long he has been Curator of the Sanskrit Manuscripts Library? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I have no information."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have prescribed any qualifications for the Curator and whether they insist upon his having a knowledge of Sanskrit or only on possessing a working knowledge or having passed some examination in Sanskrit? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Whatever it is, the present Curator is having a working knowledge of Sanskrit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know the number of enquiries that come from foreign countries to the Curator of this Library? The fact of the matter is that the present Curator is a Muhammadan gentleman—of course, I have nothing against him—but, I am only pointing out that the manuscripts in this Library are mostly in Sanskrit."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No, Sir, they are not mostly in Sanskrit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Then, may I know how many manuscripts there are in Sanskrit and how many in other languages? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" You have asked a question and the answer is given. A number of catalogues have been printed and so I would like to have notice of this supplementary question."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it necessary, Sir, for the Curator to know all the languages of the manuscripts in the Library? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No Sir. It is not necessary. He can get things done by his Assistants."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not at least necessary that the Curator must possess a knowledge of the manuscripts which are in abundance in the Library? I do not say he should possess a knowledge of all the languages."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It would be a very good qualification if he has got a working knowledge of Sanskrit also."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will it not be better if qualified persons are put in charge of this Library? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The question will be considered. If that is possible, Government will see that it is done. We have also recently done something for the Library."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" With reference to answer to clause (*m*), may I know what is the constitution of this Advisory Committee? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I am not quite sure. The Government must have nominated the Advisory Committee."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government cannot appoint another Committee to look into the oriental manuscripts in the Library with a view to make it more useful to the public here and abroad? Or, will the Government ask at least this Advisory Committee to examine its working and make recommendations to improve its utility? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The suggestion will be considered."

* 148 *Q.*—
(The Hon. Prime Minister began to answer in Tamil.)

Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar put a supplementary question.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is it not possible for the Hon. the Prime Minister to read the answer in English? "

THE HON. SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I think if supplementary questions are put, I will be unable to reply to them."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" So far as supplementary questions are concerned, he can reply in Tamil."

THE HON. SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" My fear is when once I begin to reply in English, I may have to answer the supplementaries in that language."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not take that stand. You can reply to supplementaries in Tamil. I would request you to read the main answer in English."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" It is better to give the Prime Minister the choice of the language in which he wants to speak."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the main answers may be given in English and if supplementary questions are put, he may answer them in Tamil."

(The Hon. the Prime Minister then read the answer in English.)